

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-21 and 46-50 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 4, 8 and 22-45 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to add further description for the covering material; support for this change may be found in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0030], [0045] and [0056]. No new matter has been added. Thus, Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-21 and 46-50 are presented for examination.

Telephone Conference with the Examiner

Applicant's attorney acknowledges with thanks the telephone conversation of January 14, 2010, in which the proposed amendment as made herein was discussed with Examiner Tyson, particularly with reference to the HOGANSON reference (US Application Publication 2003/0074049).

Subject to a further search, which will be conducted by the Examiner for this currently filed RCE, the Examiner advised Applicant's attorney that the amendment being made herein will distinguish over HOGANSON.

Status of Rejections

It is believed that the current amendment overcomes all outstanding rejections and renders them moot, and that Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-21 and 46-50 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-21 and 46-50 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that a further interview would expedite consideration of this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below in order to resolve any issues in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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